



## UNSPOKEN

*"UNSPOKEN packs a potent yet tender gut punch, as its protagonists from across the queer Asian diaspora navigate, challenge, and subvert accepted norms around 'coming out.' It's evident the protagonists and crew are engaged in a process of collective healing through the making of this film, and it's a rare privilege to be connected to their journey."*

- Karen McMullen, director of programming, The TIDE Film Festival

Directed by Patrick G. Lee

Produced by Patrick G. Lee

Release Year: 2021

Production Year: 2020

17.07 minutes, United States, English

Format: Digital 1080p (16:9), PCM 48 KHz 16-bit audio (ProRes version)

Screening Formats Available: mov, mp4, BluRay, Virtual Cinema on Vimeo

Hashtags: #QTAPI #QTPOC #QTBIPOC #QueerAsian #RepresentationMatters #ComingOut #FamilyAcceptance #AsianAmericanStudies #QueerStudies #WGSS #AsianAmericanCinema #AAPICinema #AsianAmericanFilm #AAPIFilm #AAPIFilmmaker #AsianAmericanFilmmaker #KoreanAmericanFilm #QueerAsianFilm #QTBIPOCfilm #QTPOCfilm

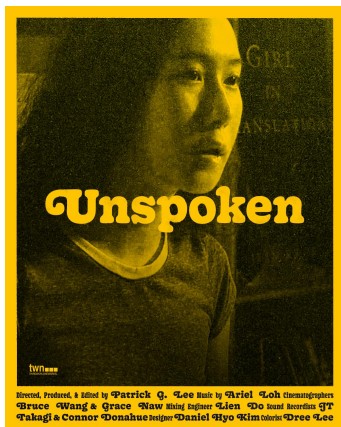
Third World Newsreel

545 8th Avenue, Suite 550, New York, NY 10018

(212) 947-9277 x 10, [tw@tw.org](mailto:tw@tw.org)

Trailer: <https://vimeo.com/ondemand/unspeakenfilm>

Filmmaker's Website: <https://www.patrickglee.com>



# UNSPOKEN

## ONE-LINE SYNOPSIS

Through letter-writing, a community discussion, and a drag performance, six queer and trans Asian Americans grapple with their queerness and consider what family acceptance might look like.

## ONE PARAGRAPH SYNOPSIS

UNSPOKEN is a short documentary that follows six queer and trans Asian Americans as they grapple with their queerness and consider what family acceptance might look like. The interviewees hail from across the Asian diaspora — with roots in Sri Lanka, Myanmar, China, and Korea. Through letter-writing, a community discussion, and a drag performance, the audience bears witness to recitations from this group of Asian Americans that might forever alter family dynamics.

## TWO PARAGRAPHS SYNOPSIS

Through letter-writing, a community discussion, and a drag performance, six queer and trans Asian Americans grapple with their queerness and consider what family acceptance might look like.

UNSPOKEN's interviewees hail from across the Asian diaspora — with roots in Sri Lanka, Myanmar, China, and Korea. Some are not yet out to their immigrant parents, and this film is their way of starting that process. Some have tried to initiate conversations around their queerness, only to meet sustained denial. Others cannot communicate fluently in the same language as their families of origin. In this film, they all share what they would say if one day they woke up and their families' ruptures across generation, culture, and language were healed.

Third World Newsreel  
545 8th Avenue, Suite 550, New York, NY 10018  
(212) 947-9277 x 10, [twon@twon.org](mailto:twon@twon.org)  
Trailer: <https://vimeo.com/ondemand/unspokenfilm>  
Filmmaker's Website: <https://www.patrickglee.com>



## REVIEWS

*"Patrick G. Lee's UNSPOKEN offers an emotional and intimate look into the struggle for family acceptance that continues to organize so much queer and trans Asian American life, art, and activism. With a capacious cast representing various East, Southeast, and South Asian diasporic experiences, the short film provides an accessible entry into themes ranging from intergenerational language barriers to the life-sustaining power of community. Eminently teachable, UNSPOKEN is essential viewing for anyone whose interests lie near the intersection of race, gender, sexuality, and diaspora."*

—James McMaster, Assistant Professor of Gender and Women's Studies and Asian American Studies, University of Wisconsin-Madison

*"We had an overwhelming response from an audience of university students in an Asian Americans in Media class, who connected with UNSPOKEN on a very personal level. Queer students were emotional about seeing their experiences represented in this film in a way that they have not seen before. The honesty and vulnerability of the cast inspires us all to speak our truth."*

—Pamela M. Quan, executive director, DisOrient Asian American Film Festival of Oregon

*"The piece acts as a powerful and timely film that captures an important emerging experience in the Asian American community, in raw and moving honesty. Its messaging of courage and hope, entwined with a rich showcase of diverse Asian American experiences, allowed this film to elevate itself among the rest."*

—Austin Asian American Film Festival, Documentary Jury (2020)

*"UNSPOKEN packs a potent yet tender gut punch, as its protagonists from across the queer Asian diaspora navigate, challenge, and subvert accepted norms around 'coming out.' It's evident the protagonists and crew are engaged in a process of collective healing through the making of this film, and it's a rare privilege to be connected to their journey."*

—, director of programming, The TIDE Film Festival

## **AWARDS, FESTIVALS & SCREENINGS**

**GRAND JURY PRIZE, BEST DOCUMENTARY SHORT (2020)**  
**Austin Asian American Film Festival**

**COURAGE AWARD (2020)**  
**DisOrient Asian American Film Festival of Oregon**

**WINNER, LGBTQ SHORT FILM (2020)**  
**Oxford Film Festival**

**AUDIENCE FALL CHOICE AWARD (2019)**  
**NewFilmmakers NY**

## **FESTIVALS**

Asian American International Film Festival  
Toronto Reel Asian International Film Festival  
Outfest Los Angeles LGBTQ Film Festival  
San Francisco Independent Film Festival  
Scottish Queer International Film Festival  
Busan International Art Film Festival  
San Diego Asian Film Festival  
Guam International Film Festival  
DisOrient Asian American Film Festival  
Austin Asian American Film Festival  
KAFFNY Infinite Cinema  
NewFilmmakers NY  
Philadelphia Asian American Film Festival  
Seattle Asian American Film Festival  
Houston Asian American & Pacific Islander Film festival  
Oxford Film Festival  
The TIDE Film Festival  
FilmPride - Brighton & Hove Pride LGBTQ+ Film Festival  
SAFILM - San Antonio Film Festival  
Outfest Fusion QTBIPOC Film Festival  
Big Apple Film Festival

## **SCREENINGS**

UCLA Asian American Studies Center 50th Anniversary Film Festival (2021)  
UMass Amherst Asian American Film Festival (2019)  
A+ The Pan-Asian Drag Revue – New York, NY (2019)

Third World Newsreel  
545 8th Avenue, Suite 550, New York, NY 10018  
(212) 947-9277 x 10, tw@tw.org  
Trailer: <https://vimeo.com/ondemand/unspokenfilm>  
Filmmaker's Website: <https://www.patrickglee.com>

KQTcon – Korean Queer & Trans Conference at The New School (2018)  
National Queer Asian Pacific Islander Alliance – National Conference (2018)  
University of Southern California – Asian Pacific Cinema Association (2018)  
Queer + Trans Asian Short Films – Secret Project Robot, Brooklyn, NY (2018)

Third World Newsreel  
545 8th Avenue, Suite 550, New York, NY 10018  
(212) 947-9277 x 10, [tw@tw.org](mailto:tw@tw.org)  
Trailer: <https://vimeo.com/ondemand/unspokenfilm>  
Filmmaker's Website: <https://www.patrickglee.com>



## **BIOGRAPHY OF DIRECTOR AND PRODUCER**

### **SHORT BIO**

Patrick G. Lee (he/they) is a queer diasporic Korean documentary filmmaker, writer, and community organizer. He's interested in building collaborative, community-based models of filmmaking that reject traditional hierarchies of authority and that equip queer and trans people of color with media-making skills. Patrick has made award-winning films about Asian American coming out stories, LGBTQ self-representation, and queer Asian history.. His writing has appeared in Mother Jones, The Nation, ProPublica, The Atlantic, and more. His work-in-progress feature documentary, UNTITLED KQT PROJECT, is supported by Firelight Media, Sundance, and CAAM. He has been coping with pandemic times mostly by eating carbs.

### **LONG BIO**

Patrick G. Lee (he/they) is a queer diasporic Korean documentary filmmaker, writer, and community organizer. He's interested in building collaborative, community-based models of filmmaking that reject traditional hierarchies of authority and that equip queer and trans people of color with media-making skills. His recent project, UNSPOKEN, won several festival awards, including the Grand Jury Prize for Best Documentary Short at the Austin Asian American Film Festival. Patrick's five-part docuseries for NBC News on LGBTQ Asian Pacific American history won the NAMIC Vision Award for Long Form Digital Content. His writing has appeared in Mother Jones, The Nation, ProPublica, The Atlantic, and more. In 2018, Patrick helped organize KQTcon, the first national Korean queer and trans conference in the U.S. His work-in-progress feature documentary, UNTITLED KQT PROJECT, is supported by Firelight Media, Sundance, and CAAM. He has been coping with pandemic times mostly by eating carbs.

### **Director's Statement**

I started imagining a film like UNSPOKEN around the same time I started seriously considering what coming out to my Korean immigrant parents might look like. In that process, I realized that coming out was a personal choice for me to make based on my instincts and my circumstances — not a default “milestone” required of all queers, as it's often assumed to be. I also realized that, before I could potentially navigate sharing my queerness with my family of origin, I first needed to find grounding in my own community of fellow diasporic queers of color.

I wanted to make a film that would transform the often solitary, even lonely process of coming out into a shared experience grounded in community, collective care, and celebration. And I hope UNSPOKEN will help initiate honest and hopeful conversations around what unconditional acceptance can look like within immigrant communities.

As a director and producer, I work within a tradition of filmmaking as community activation, which means that my values as an artist align with my values as an organizer and activist. Specifically, I seek to center the perspectives of those most directly impacted by the issues I address – namely, the interlocking systems of queerphobia, racism, and imperialism – in part by recruiting community members as protagonists and collaborators, hiring them as crew, and engaging them as audience

Third World Newsreel

545 8th Avenue, Suite 550, New York, NY 10018

(212) 947-9277 x 10, [tw@tw.org](mailto:tw@tw.org)

Trailer: <https://vimeo.com/ondemand/unspeakenfilm>

Filmmaker's Website: <https://www.patrickglee.com>

members. I also seek to build a shared vision for the film with everyone involved, and to create a supportive culture as we navigate the unpredictable process of making an independent film. In these ways, working on UNSPOKEN has afforded me an opportunity to expand my creative practice by integrating principles of community organizing and social justice more deeply into my process.

CONTACT INFO:

Patrick is available for speaking engagements and screening events. You can reach him at [pgleefilms@gmail.com](mailto:pgleefilms@gmail.com).

Website: [www.patrickglee.com](http://www.patrickglee.com)

Instagram: [www.instagram.com/patrickglee](https://www.instagram.com/patrickglee)

Third World Newsreel

545 8th Avenue, Suite 550, New York, NY 10018

(212) 947-9277 x 10, [tw@tw.org](mailto:tw@tw.org)

Trailer: <https://vimeo.com/ondemand/unspokenfilm>

Filmmaker's Website: <https://www.patrickglee.com>

## STILLS & CAPTIONS



**Burmese drag queen Emi Grate in a candid moment.**



**Burmese drag queen Emi Grate lip syncs onstage while flanked by a crew of fellow queer Asian performers.**



**Burmese drag queen Emi Grate performs onstage at a queer bar in Brooklyn**

Third World Newsreel

545 8th Avenue, Suite 550, New York, NY 10018

(212) 947-9277 x 10, [tw@tw.org](mailto:tw@tw.org)

Trailer: <https://vimeo.com/ondemand/unspokenfilm>

Filmmaker's Website: <https://www.patrickglee.com>





**A joyful, behind-the-scenes moment.**



**Julie slight smile**



**Julie CU**



**Kevin and Steph emotional**

Third World Newsreel  
 545 8th Avenue, Suite 550, New York, NY 10018  
 (212) 947-9277 x 10, [tw@tw.org](mailto:tw@tw.org)  
 Trailer: <https://vimeo.com/ondemand/unspokenfilm>  
 Filmmaker's Website: <https://www.patrickglee.com>



**Patrick contemplative**



**Rathini CU contemplative (profile)**



**Sen CU smile**



**Title design by Daniel Hyo Kim.**

Third World Newsreel  
 545 8th Avenue, Suite 550, New York, NY 10018  
 (212) 947-9277 x 10, [tw@tw.org](mailto:tw@tw.org)  
 Trailer: <https://vimeo.com/ondemand/unspokenfilm>  
 Filmmaker's Website: <https://www.patrickglee.com>

## PRODUCTION CREDITS

Directed, Produced & Edited by Patrick G. Lee

Music by Ariel Loh

Cinematographers: Bruce Wang, Grace Naw

Mixing Engineer: Lien Do

Sound Recordists: JT Takagi, Connor Donahue

Designer: Daniel Hyo Kim

Colorist: Dree Lee

Assistant Editor: Bruce Wang

1st Assistant Director: Moxie Peng

Production Assistant: Ann Kaufman

Photographers: John Cheng, Danny Kim

Our Interviewees: Sen Ayané, Kevin & Stephanie C., Emi Grate, Rathini Kandavel, Julie Kim

Additional Music: "I'll Be There" written and performed by Nenci & Leviathe, courtesy of Text Me Records

This project was made possible in part by Third World Newsreel; DCTV's Docu Work-In-Progress Lab; The Asian American Writers' Workshop; The National Endowment for the Arts; The New York State Council on the Arts; public funds from the New York City Department of Cultural Affairs, in partnership with the City Council; The Peace Development Fund; GAPIMNY—Empowering Queer & Trans Asian Pacific Islanders & Individual Donors, including:

The Lee-Hoffmann Family

Aya Yabe

Unjoo Lee Byars

Sy Nakao

John Yang

The Ibach Family

Bobby Calvan

Eliza Rhee

Matthew Gummess

Elaina Natario

Third World Newsreel

545 8th Avenue, Suite 550, New York, NY 10018

(212) 947-9277 x 10, [tw@tw.org](mailto:tw@tw.org)

Trailer: <https://vimeo.com/ondemand/unspokenfilm>

Filmmaker's Website: <https://www.patrickglee.com>



Jalal Osman  
The Boente Family  
The Serrano Family  
Josh Curk  
Cynthia Gordy  
& Liz Rhee

Special thanks to:

Yance Ford & the 2018 DCTV Docu Work-In-Progress Lab  
JT Takagi, Danny Kim, Chrystian Rodriguez, Brittney Krone-West & the 2017 TWN Production Workshop  
Ryan Letada  
Hannah Bae & Adam Oelsner  
Sunnie & Kenny Lee  
Tiffany Tran Le  
Joe Kye  
Hye Yun Park  
Clara Yoon  
Luke Thibault  
Richard Munaba  
Kino Lee  
Jasmine Chin

Third World Newsreel  
545 8th Avenue, Suite 550, New York, NY 10018  
(212) 947-9277 x 10, [tw@tw.org](mailto:tw@tw.org)  
Trailer: <https://vimeo.com/ondemand/unspokenfilm>  
Filmmaker's Website: <https://www.patrickglee.com>